

Message Text

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67

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PRS-01 PA-01 SSO-00 CCO-00

DODE-00 OPR-02 A-01 SS-15 SCS-03 SCA-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00

SAM-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 /064 W

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O P 261405Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1343

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USIA WASHDC

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - D A T E T I M E G R O U P A N D P A R A N U M B E R S

USCINCEUR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, SOPN, US

SUBJECT: JOURNALISTS TRAVELLING TO ATHENS: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

1. EIGHTEEN JOURNALISTS HAVE REGISTERED TO DATE TO TRAVEL
AS PART OF EVACUATION TO ATHENS, AS INDICATED BELOW.

2. AMERICAN MEDIA:

LAWRENCE BUCHMAN ABC NEWS AMERICAN

RONALD HEADFORD ABC NEWS AUSTRALIAN

OSVALDO BISI ABC NEWS ITALIAN

DOUGLAS TUNNEL OR RPT OR

MICHAEL LEE CBS NEWS AMERICAN

DAVID GREEN CBS NEWS BRITISH

ANDREW THOMPSON CBS NEWS BRITISH

DONALD CRAIG OR RPT OR

WILLIAM LORD NBC NEWS AMERICAN

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RICHARD RIGGINS L NBC NEWS AMERICAN

MAURICE NADKARNI NBC NEWS BRITISH

NICHOLAS LUDINGTON AP AMERICAN

DOYLE MCMANUS UPI AMERICAN

WILLIAM SCHMIDT NEWSWEEK AMERICAN
CONSTANTINE BRELIS TIME MAGAZINE AMERICAN
JOSEPH FITCHETT NEAR EAST BUSINESS AMERICAN

3. FOREIGN MEDIAUX

JOHN DAVID HIRST GUARDIAN (LONDON) BRITISH
JAN MOSANDER EXPRESSEN (STOCKHOLM) FINNISH
MATS LUNDEGARD DAGENSYHETER (STOCKHOLM) SWEDISH
DIANE BISHAR CBC (CANADA) AUSTRALIAN

4. REPS OF THREE U.S. TELEVISION NETWORKS HAVE APPROACHED EMBASSY TO REQUEST HELICOPTER TO TRANSPORT ONE REP FROM EACH NETWORK WITH FILM SHOT BEFORE AND DURING DEPARTURE OF EVACUEES FROM SHIP TO AKROTIRI SBA IN CYPRUS. NETWORK REPS POINT OUT THAT, BY SO DOING, THEY WOULD GET TWO DAYS OF PLAY FOR STORY IN U.S. INSTEAD OF ONE, AS HAPPENED WITH JUNE SEA EVACUATION, WHEN FILM SHOT IN BEIRUT STAYED ON BOARD ALL THE WAY TO ATHENS AND WAS THEN OVERTAKEN BY FILM SHOT UPON ARRIVAL THERE. NETWORKS REPS STATE THEY ARE PREPARED TO BE AS DISCREET AS NECESSARY REGARDING USE OF AKROTIRI AS POINT OF TRANSIT.

5. EMBASSY BELIEVES ON BASIS ITS CONTACTS WITH CORRESPONDENTS IN LAST FEW DAYS THAT THEY ARE PLANNING TO COVER THIS DEPARTURE IN STRAIGHTFORWARD FASHION AND THAT COVERAGE WILL THUS DIFFER MARKEDLY IN TONE FROM THAT OF JUNE EVACUATION. ON OTHER HAND, WE SEE NO REASON WHY JOURNALISTS-- WHO ARE PARTICIPATING IN THIS OPERATION ESSENTIALLY FROM STANDPOINT OF NEWS "STORY" -- SHOULD NECESSARILY RECEIVE FAVORED TREATMENT (I.E. HELICOPTER RIDE) IN CONNECTION WITH NAVY'S EVACUATION EFFORT.
SEELYE

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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